THE King's Majesties GRACIOUS LETTER TO HIS PARLIAMENT,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the twelfth of *November*, 1673.

WITH

HIS GRACE the Duke of *Lauderdale*, His MAJESTIES High *Commissioner*, His Speech to the PARLIAMENT, after the reading of the Letter.

By His *Majesties* special Command.

EDINBURGH,
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THE KINGS Majesties GRACIOUS LETTER

To His *Parliament* conveened at *Edinburgh*, the twelfth of *November*, 1673.

CHARLES R.

*Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Cousin, Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Cousin and Councellor, Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Councellor, Right Trusty and Well Beloved Councellors, Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Cousin and Councellor, Right Trusty and Well Beloved Councellor, Right Trusty and Well Beloved Councellor, Right Trusty and Well Beloved

Commotion; For which We return you Our hearty thanks. And seing the War doth still continue, We have thought fit to send the Duke *of* Lauderdale *Our* Commissioner *for keeping this Session of Parliament, at the day to which We did many moneths ago adjourn it. He will acquaint you how We have, by Our Ambassadors at* Cologne, *used all possible endeavours for attaining a just and honourable Peace, and what hath been the insolence and stubbornness of Our Enemies, who have never yet made any step towards Peace; So that We are necessitate to continue the War for Our own honour, the maintenance of Our just rights, and the protection of all Our Subjects; wherein We nothing doubt the hearty concurrence of you and of all Our Kingdoms. But one of the principal reasons of keeping this Session of Parliament, is, to the end effectual courses may be laid down for curbing and suppressing the insolent Field-conventicles and other seditious practices which have, since your last Session, too much abounded. You are Our witnesses what Indulgences We have given, and with what lenity We have used such dissenters as would be peaceable, and how much Our favours have been abused. You have made many good Laws, but still they have failed in the execution against the contemners of the Law: We must now therefore, once for all, lay down such solide and effectual courses, as the whole Kingdom may see, that We and you are both in earnest; And that, if fairnesse will not, Force must compell the refractory to be peaceable and obey the Law.*

We have had frequent experience of your affection to Our service upon several occasions, and therefore

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VVe are confident you will eminently do your duty in this which doth so much concern Our Authority, and your own peace and quyetness. VVe leave the wayes and means to your own wisdom, and VVe do expect that you will lay down such solide grounds, and take such effectual wayes, as may put an end to those disorders, and evidence to the world that Our ancient Kingdom of Scotland *is at quyet, and united to Us. VVe have instructed Our* Commissioner *fullie in this, and all things relating to Our service and your advantage; and he can well inform you of Our constant affection to, and care of, all the concerns of that Our Kingdom: which consideration, at this time, hath made us dispence with him here, when his service was so useful to Us. VVe need not again repeat that which VVe have so often said of his great sufferings for Us, and great services that he hath, for many years, done to Us; And therefore you shall give him entire trust, as VVe have hitherto done in all things; Knowing, We could not have pitched upon any that is more faithful to Our service, or that is a greater lover of your good and tranquillity, which maketh Us not doubt a happy result to this Session. And so We bid you heartily farewell.* Given at Our Court, at *VVhytehall* the 16th. day of October 1673. And of Our Reign the 25th. year.

By His *Majesties* Command,

LAUDERDALE.

His Grace
The Duke of LAUDERDALE,
HIS
MAJESTIES
High Commissioner,

His Speech to the Parliament, *the twelfth of* November, 1673.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

LAst time I had the honor to serve the King in this Place, I did, by His *Majesties* command, acquaint you with the grounds, and motives of His ingaging in this so inavoydable a Warre against the *States General* of the *United Provinces*, For securing His Kingdome against them who would have made us long ere now have felt what was then only foreseen, if by Gods good Providence and the Kings Wisdome this Warre had not beer made.

I did at that time recommend to you to consider His honor, His interest and your own security, (which are certainly most inseparable) and to lay down such reall and effectuall wayes, That the Forces of this Kingdom might be supplyed to serve His *Majesty* upon occasions, to be a terror to His enemies, and a security to this His Kingdom. You then did most cheerfully raise such a Sum as might probably provide against any Forraign invasion, or intestine commotion the Enemy could raise here; For which His *Majesty* does again return you His hearty thanks. He hath not diverted any of it from the ends for which it was granted; And so great were His Navall preparations, together with His Land-forces, this last Summer, That He had great reason to have expected a just and reasonable Peace: But such hath been the insolent stubbornness of His Enemies, that He is disappointed of that hope.

Therefore He did command me to keep this Session of Parliament at this day, to which it was many moneths ago adjourned: And, as He acquainted you with the motives of the War; So, to

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let you know how He hath uſed all means poſſible for ending it, The *Sweds*, who are the Mediators, propoſed a Treaty, His *Majeſty* accepted it, and offered *Dunkirk* as the moſt convenient place for all that were concerned in the War to Treat in: But the Enemy refuſed it, though His *Majeſty* had Treated with them at their own Town of *Breda*, during the laſt War. The Mediators propoſed a Ceſsation of Armes before any ingagement, laſt Summer: His *Majeſty* agreed to it; but the Enemy inſolently refuſed it alſo: And the King accepted of the City of *Cologne* propoſed by the Enemy for the Place of Treaty. Thither He ſent His Plenipotentiaries with reaſonable propoſalls; and thoſe He did ſo moderat, that the Mediators declared they were not reaſonably to be refuſed: Yet the Enemy have been ſo very averſe to peace, that they would never declare what would ſatisfie them, nor ſo much as anſwer any propoſall made by the Mediators for the King or His Allies: Nay, ſuch was their inſolency, that they gave in Papers ſtuffed with ſuch unhandſome language, that the Mediators were aſhamed and refuſed to ſhew them: Therefore the King is forced to continue the War, for His own honor, the maintenance of His juſt Rights, and the protection of all His Subjects: Wherein He doubts not of the hearty concurrence of this and of all His Kingdoms.

Another main reaſon of keeping this Seſſion of Parliament, is, to joyn with you, in taking ſuch effectuall courſe for curbing, and puniſhing inſolent Field-conventicles, and other ſeditious Practices, as that the good Laws you have made may receive due obedience, and that Peace and Order may be preſerved in this Kingdom.

The Wayes and Means for this good End He leaves to your wiſdome, not doubting of the ſame care and affection to His ſervice in this, which he hath found all along from you.

And whereas the malicious tongues of the diſaffected may ſtill beſpatter His *Majeſty* and His Government with ſlanders and falſe ſuggeſtions, I am again particularly commanded to renew to you the fulleſt aſſurance of His *Majeſties* moſt conſtant continuance in His firm and unalterable reſolutions to maintain the true reformed Proteſtant Religion, and the Government of this Church by Arch-Biſhops and Biſhops againſt *Popery* and *Separation*. And I am fully Authorized to all ſuch further Acts as you ſhall think convenient for the quieting the minds of peaceable People, for preventing the increaſe of *Popery* or *Schiſme*, and by all good means ſecuring the true reformed Religion and the Peace of this Church.

I am likewiſe fully impowered to give His *Majeſties* Royall aſſent to ſuch good Laws as you ſhall offer, for increaſing of Trade, the improving of Manufacture, or any way promoving the good of this Kingdom: So that I doubt not, by Gods bleſſing, and your wiſdom, of as happie an end of this, as I have ſeen in former Seſſions of Parliament.

FINIS.